

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KHORRA 00065 040826Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 TRSE-00

AID-05 OMB-01 CIEP-02 /040 W  
----- 064622

R 040553Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL KHORRAMSHAHR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 275

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

COMMIDEASTFOR (POUCH)

UNCLAS KHORRAMSHAHR 065

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRAN, ECON, IR

SUBJ: FIRE SLOWS KHORRAMSHAHR PORT OPERATIONS

1. SUMMARY. A SERIOUS FIRE ON JULY 29 AT THE KHORRAMSHAHR PORT DESTROYED FOUR LARGE WAREHOUSES AND A LARGE VOLUME OF CARGO IN OPEN STORAGE. THIS DISASTER HAS BROUGHT A HALT TO PORT CLEARANCE OPERATIONS INDEFINITELY, THOUGH DISCHARGE OF SHIPS CONTINUES AT A CURTAILED RATE. PORT CON-  
GESTION WAS ALREADY A SERIOUS BOTTLENECK IN IRAN'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND THIS DISASTER CAN ONLY EXACERBATE THE SITUATION. INCREASES IN ALREADY HIGH SHIPPING SURCHARGES MAY ALSO RESULT. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRE BROKE OUT AFTERNOON JULY 29 IN LARGER OF TWO WAREHOUSE AREAS IN KHORRAMSHAHR PORT AND RAGED UNCONTROLLED UNTIL EARLY MORNING JULY 30. FIRE STARTED AMONG BALES  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 KHORRA 00065 040826Z

OF COTTON AND PAPER PILED IN OPEN YARDS AND SPREAD RAPID-

LY TO LARGE SUPPLIES CANNED COOKING OIL STORED NEARBY. STRONG WINDS SPREAD FLAMES THROUGHOUT OPEN STORAGE AREAS DESTROYING FOUR LARGE WAREHOUSES AND HUGE QUANTITIES OF CARGO. TWO FIRE BRIGADES ARRIVED ON SCENE 30 MINUTES AFTER FIRE STARTED, BUT ONLY WATER SOURCE WAS LOW PRESSURE CITY DRINKING WATER SYSTEM WHICH PROVED TOTALLY INADEQUATE. FIRE WAS FINALLY BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL MORNING JULY 30 AFTER SEVERAL HUNDRED YARDS OF PIPE WERE LAID TO SHATT-AL-ARAB ESTUARY.

3. SOME FREIGHT IN BURNED AREA BELONGED TO PRIVATE IMPORTERS, BUT MOST BELONGED TO GOI AGENCIES. COOKING OIL WAS IMPORTED BY COMMERCE MINISTRY'S FOREIGN TRANSACTIONS COMPANY (FTC) TO SUBSIDIZE CONSUMER MARKET. AMONG OTHER ITEMS DESTROYED WERE TIRES, FARM AND ROADBUILDING MACHINERY, AND SPARE PARTS FOR VEHICLES AND INDUSTRIAL MACHINES.

4. SHIPS CONTINUE TO DISCHARGE AT JETTIES, BUT ALL CLEARANCE OF FREIGHT FROM PORT HAS CEASED INDEFINITELY PENDING ASSESSMENT OF LOSS AND DAMAGE BY PORTS AND SHIPPING ORGANIZATION (PSO), CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES. AND INSURANCE COMPANIES. A PSO SURVEY TEAM ARRIVED FROM TEHRAN JULY 30 TO ASSESS DAMAGE AND COORDINATE GOI REACTION.

5. ALL OBSERVERS PRAISE DARING EMERGENCY EFFORTS OF KOREAN CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ENGAGED IN PORT EXPANSION PROJECTS IN NEARBY AREAS OF PORT. THEY VOLUNTARILY ATTEMPTED CLEAR FREIGHT INFRONT OF ADVANCING FLAMES WITH FORKLIFTS.

6. NO OFFICIAL ESTIMATES OF DAMAGES ARE YET AVAILABLE. RUMORS CIRCULATING AMONG LOCAL SHIPPING AGENTS AND IMPORTERS CITE LOSSES IN MILLIONS OR EVEN BILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND ALLEGE DESTRUCTION OF TWENTY TO THIRTY PERCENT OF CARGO STORED IN PORT, GIVING INDICATION THAT DISASTER WAS OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS.

7. COMMENT. SLOW CLEARANCE PROCEDURES AND POORLY ORGANIZED FREIGHT HANDLING OPERATIONS AT IRAN'S LARGEST PORT, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 KHORRA 00065 040826Z

ALREADY A SERIOUS BOTTLENECK FOR THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS, WILL BE FURTHER EXACERBATED BY THIS DISASTER. PRESENTLY 132 SHIPS ARE AWAITING TURN AT KHORRAMSHAHR AND FREIGHT SURCHARGE FROM U.S. IS SIXTY PERCENT. FURTHER SLOWDOWNS AT THE PORT CAN ONLY RESULT IN INCREASED SHIPPING COSTS AND EVEN GREATER DELAYS. SHIPPING AGENTS WERE PREDICTING A JUMP IN SURCHARGE RATE TO NINETY PERCENT EVEN BEFORE FIRE. END COMMENT.

MARSHALL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PORT FACILITIES, FIRES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975KHORRA00065  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750268-0220  
**From:** KHORRAMSHAHR  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750885/aaaacxon.tel  
**Line Count:** 116  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisoob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 FEB 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <12 JAN 2004 by ellisoob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FIRE SLOWS KHORRAMSHAHR PORT OPERATIONS  
**TAGS:** ETRN, ECON, IR  
**To:** STATE TEHRAN  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006